THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Fencing of 71.72 kms of Karimganj-Bangladesh Border in Assam has been sanctioned. About 61 kms of the fencing has been completed as on 31.10.1999. Fencing of additional 35 kms of Karmiganj-Bangladesh border is scheduled in Ilnd phase.

Other measures taken by the Government to check ISI menace include raising of additional battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outpost, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the riverine border, increase in the number of outpost towers, provision of surveillance equipments. State Governments have also .been sensitised about ISI activities and advised to be vigilant in the matter.

Status of Displaced Kashmiri Pandits

848. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL:
SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of Kashmiri pandits who are displaced due to militancy and are away from their homes, living in miserable conditions, considering the forthcoming winter seasons;

(b) whether they have not been rehabilitated so far;

(c) if so, whether any proposal is pending with Government to give them some relief;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (e) As intimated by the State Government a Sub-Committee constituted by the State Government for preparing an action plan for return of the migrants, has submitted a draft interim report for the consideration of the State Government.

The State Government have initiated the following confidence building measures;

(a) Completion of inventorisation of immovable property left behind by migrants.

(b) Initiation of Social Interaction Programme.

(c) Expediting follow up action for eviction from migrant houses/lands from illegal/unauthorised occupation.

The cash relief to the Migrants has been revised from Rs. 450/-per head per month to Rs. 600/- per month per head subject to a maximum of Rs. 2400/- p.m. with effect from 1st April, 1999.

In Jammu, where a number of Migrants are staying in camps, they have been provided with one Room Tenements. There are 12 Dispensaries in various camps with 28 qualified doctors and 111 Para Medical staff to cater to the Medical needs of the migrants. Camp schools and camp colleges have been established to cater to the educational need of the migrant students. There are 3 Degree Colleges, 8 Higher Secondary Schools and two High Schools. Other amentities such as community halls, sanitation, water, electricity, etc. have also been provided in the Camps.

Pope's Veiled Call for Conversion

849. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Telegraph on 8th November, 1999 captioned, Government cross with Pope's call;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of the concern expressed in a section of the press that the Pope's call was a veiled call for conversion; if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) According to Article 25 (1) of Constitution of India, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right